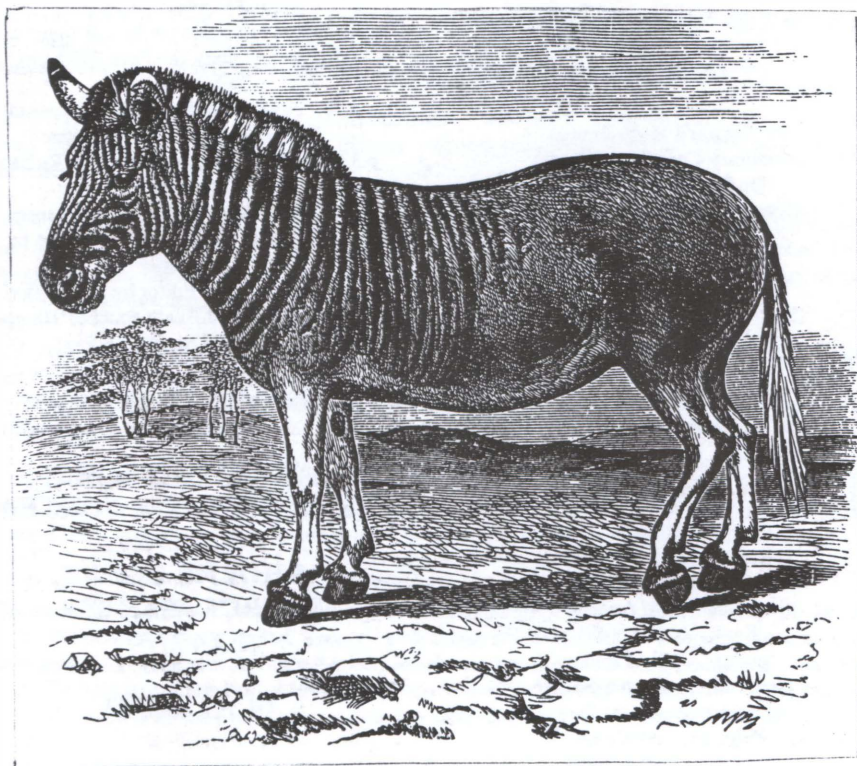


Animals & Men

The Journal of the Centre for Fortean Zoology



The Quagga Project ... Green Cats and Dogs
The Burden of Proof ... Man Beast in Malaya
New Species in Devonshire.

Issue Eight

£1.75

This issue of 'Animals & Men' was put together by the following zoological malcontents.

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THE GREAT DAYS OF ZOOLOGY ARE NOT DONE

Dear Friends,

Another year, another issue. Thank you very much for your support during 1995. Thank you also to everyone who wrote to us and sent us cards at Christmas. Its heartwarming to realise how many of you have become real friends over the past two years.

This year looks as if it is going to be a particularly exciting one. We have a number of new and on-going projects that will be bearing fruit over the next twelve months. The sales of the 1996 Yearbook have been spectacularly successful and we have high hopes for the books we are intending to publish this year. My book on 'The Smaller Mystery Carnivores of the Westcountry' is due in the Spring and I have another book on The Owlman of Mawnan in preparation. Richard Muirhead and I are working on a book tentatively called 'The Mystery Animals of Hong-Kong', and we are hoping to print an edition of 'Doc' Shields' 'The Cantrip Codex' sometime in 1996. We are also involved in the production of several television projects and a movie-length video which covers foretane goings-on in Cornwall, together with music and elements of surrealism.

We are going to be out and about this year, and once again we should like to appeal for help. We now have a hard-working and successful network of regional representatives, but we now want something more! We are looking for people who can help us in two ways. Firstly by coming along to events in their area with us, (for example, County Shows, Zoologica, Unconvention and Animal Fairs), and help us out on the stall. We cannot pay anyone but we usually buy them lunch and always ensure that they get in free to whatever event we are attending. We are mounting exhibitions at various events around the country this year and would be grateful for an extra pair of hands or so at several of them.

Secondly, during our travels to places of foretane interest we usually sleep in the van, but if anyone, especially in parts of Scotland, the Midlands or the Home Counties can ever offer us a bed for the night during our travels they would make two travelling cryptozoologists (and sometimes Graham the Roadie) very happy.

Finally, in a world where a whole new Phylum of animal life can be discovered living on the upper lip of a Norwegian lobster, (Jan says that she will never eat scampi again, whereas Alison and I are even more thankful that we are vegetarians), then it proves that as we enter the third millenium after Christ, there are many mysteries left to solve. As Goethe said: *"In her abnormalities, Nature reveals her secrets"*, a maxim which, if I believed in such things, and I don't know whether I do or not, should possibly become the motto of all the earnest seekers after truth at the Centre for Foretane Zoology.



Adrian . Jan '96

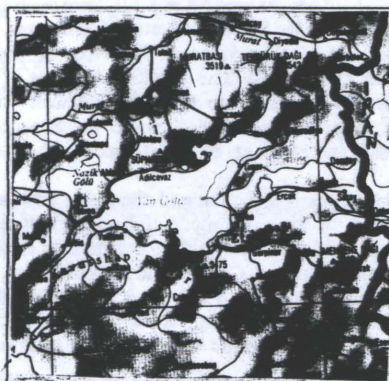
NEWSFILE

ALL THE ZOOLOGICAL NEWS THATS FIT TO
PRINT COMPILED BY JAN WILLIAMS AND HER
MERRY BAND

Lake Monsters.

Lake Van Monster.

Reports of a 'dinosaur-like' monster in the saline waters of Lake Van in Eastern Turkey have inspired a government-funded investigation. The search follows a reported sighting by the provincial deputy governor, Bertami Alkan. He said 'It was black and had triangular spikes on its back. It looked like a dinosaur'. Nadir Kartal, head of the parliamentary commission which is conducting the search, added 'its head is black and hairy, and it had horns'. Orhan Erman, a biology professor at Ataturk University, Erzurum, was sceptical. He said 'it is not possible for a creature of the size claimed by witnesses to live in a closed lake like Van'. (Daily Telegraph 2.11.95; Westfalenpost 2.11.95).



Eastern Turkey showing Lake Van

BURRUM BEAST.

A witness reported a sighting of the Burrum Beast, near Childers, Queensland, Australia in September. The Burrum Beast, a long necked lake monster, has been seen in the area, 40 kilometres south of Bundaberg, since the beginning of the century. (Brisbane Sunday Mail 1.10.1995).

TEGGIE ON FILM?

A recent story on the Internet claimed that C.P.Bureau, a Reading-based closed-circuit film company, may have succeeded in filming 'Teggie', the legendary monster of Lake Bala in North Wales.

According to a story in the Reading Evening Post (9.11.1995), the company were hired by a Japanese TV crew, which has detected a large object moving about in the depths of the lake by sonar soundings. C.P. Bureau mounted thirteen cameras in boats, eight around the shore and five in a mobile control room. One of the pictures obtained seems to show a humped creature moving across the lake's surface, leaving a trail in its wake hundreds of yards long. Another shows what appears to be a long neck and head breaking from

the surface of the lake with a hump just behind.

Unfortunately there is only one thing wrong with the story. It is completely untrue! We spoke to Mr Meredith at C.P Bureau, who told us that the story in the Reading newspaper had been written by a local journalist as a spoof. Whoever transferred it to the Internet, removed the 'jockey' aspects of the story, and presented it as pure fact.

C.P Bureau did film an object on Lake Bala but it proved to be inanimate. Mr Meredith remarked wryly that he wished they had managed to film a 'real' monster because the publicity for his company would have been overwhelming!

HORSES

ANCIENT EQUINES

A joint French and British expedition led by ethnologist Michel Peissel, has discovered a small population of horses which resemble those of European cave paintings. They were found in a remote mountain valley, not shown on maps, in the isolated Riwoche area of north-eastern Tibet. 'When we saw the first of these animals', Peissel said, 'we thought it was a mutation of sorts, but then we discovered a second and third specimen, finally an entire herd - two dozen pony-sized, short-maned, beige-coloured horses with angular heads'. The dark line of hair along the back and the black lower legs were also similar to cave paintings of horses thought to be long extinct.

According to expedition member Ignasi Casas, an animal biologist at the Horse Research Centre in Newmarket, the Riwoche horses cannot leave the protective valley, since the high mountain passes they would have to cross supply no grass for food. A blood sample taken from one of the herd is currently being analysed in a British laboratory. (*New York Times* 12.11.1995; *Der Spiegel*, # 49, 4.12.1995).

ZORSE RACING

American horse breeder Diane Richards is hoping 'White Cloud', a zebra-horse hybrid will have a great future in racing. Born to a registered mare, via artificial insemination with a zebra, the foal - called a zorse - has the speed of a race horse and the stamina of a zebra. Miss Richards, who keeps zebras at her ranch near Big Bear Lake in California's San Bernardino mountains, has persevered with the artificial insemination programme despite problems. Previous experiments have produced hybrids which are often vicious and defy domestication. (*Daily Mail* 12.1.1996).

PONY POWER

Five Konik ponies have been imported from Poland to help save fenland near Diss, Norfolk. Suffolk Wildlife Trust hopes that the ponies and their offspring will graze on sedge scrub and reeds which are choking Redgrave and Lopham Fen. The fenland has been drained by a borehole supplying local villages allowing sedge and reeds to take over from the natural vegetation. The borehole is to be moved under a three million pound restoration scheme, allowing water levels to return to normal, but the scrubland needs to be cleared. British ponies were not considered hardy enough to graze on the marshy ground, but Trust

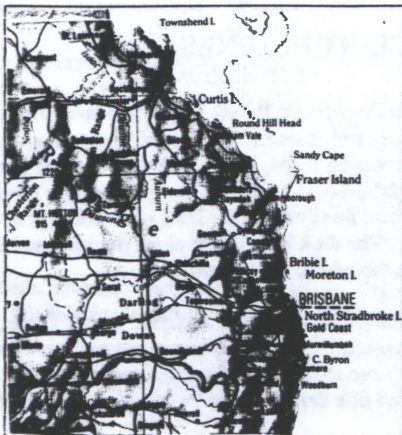
Director Derek Moore says the Komiks are 'very hardy and will eat anything'. (Daily Mail 13.11.1995).

MYSTERY MARSUPIALS

QUEENSLAND THYLACINE.

Roy Swaby from Woodgate, near Bundaberg, Queensland, reported an animal he believed to be a thylacine, which had chased a terrified kangaroo into the path of his car. He said, *'This incredible sandy coloured striped animal leapt out from the side of the road a full fifteen feet, and into the glare of my 100 watt halogen spots and four headlights. It stopped on the road, turned to look at me and fell back on its huge hindquarters, its large green-yellow eyes glowing in the light, and then it opened its jaws and snarled at me. I have never seen anything like it. The white teeth were large, and the jaws like a crocodile, like a mantrap. It took two steps and then suddenly crouched and sprang again, 15 - 20 feet, this time into the scrub. I was 20 metres away from it and my lights lit up the road and the creature like it was daylight. I could even see whiskers'*.

Mr Swaby returned to the spot the following day and photographed paw prints measuring 12cm by 10cm. He said the animal was 4-5 feet long with a 2-3 foot tail, and looked as if someone had cut a dingo and a kangaroo in half and joined them together. The stripes started halfway down its back, and was sleek and healthy looking. (Brisbane Sunday Mail 27.8.1995).



Bundburg, Queensland, the site for two items in this Newsfile

WALLABIES ON THE WANE

Wildlife experts believe only two wallabies may be left in the Roaches area of the Staffordshire Peak District, and the Peak Park officials are urging eighteens to stay away from the animals. (Daily Mail 26.12.1995).

Five Bennet's Wallabies escaped from a private menagerie at Swythamley Hall near Leek in 1939, and established a colony in heather moorland and thick scrub north-west of Leek and in woodlands near Hoo Moor in neighbouring Derbyshire. The population has fluctuated over the years, dropping dramatically after the exceptionally hard winters of 1947, 1962 and 1978, and increasing to 30-50 animals in milder conditions.

The colony has been reported as close to extinction in previous years, but to date has always managed to bound back. A yak which also escaped from Swythamley in 1939 survived on the moors until 1951.

MYSTERY CATS

Cornwall.

A big cat was reported at Trevenning Farm, Fowey in October. David Byrne saw the animal whilst he was driving at night, and described it as black, long and slender. (*Cornish Guardian* 5.10.1995)

(THE David Byrne? '....and you may ask yourself how did that Alien Big Cat get in the headlights of your great big automobile?' Rock and Roll Ed.)

North Yorkshire.

Ken Harrison of Hovingham, near Malton, saw a large white cat in woods near his farm on the 14th November. The animal was about the size of a fox, had a 'leopard shaped head', a long tail, and may have had grey markings. (*Scarborough Evening News* 16.11.1995).

Buckinghamshire.

A big cat was seen in the Page Hill area of Buckingham on the 22nd November. A resident of Cheyne Close saw the animal from her window at about 5 a.m. and described it as a 'big cat with pointed ears. It definitely was not a dog or a fox, you could tell by the way it moved'. (*Brackley and Towcester Advertiser* 1.12.1995). The report follows a number of sightings in the rural area around Buckingham and Winslow (see 'Animals & Men' #7), but is the first from the town itself.

Cambridgeshire.

The Fen Tiger is stalking again. A cat described as 'waist-high and bigger than a Great Dane' was seen by student Andrew Fry in October, and a week later prints were found in a newly cultivated field at Comberton, near Cambridge, by landowner Brian Hague. The large prints were examined by university zoologist Dr. Keith Eltringham, who said that they were not caused by any native wild animal. 'I cannot be absolutely certain, but they are almost certainly those of a large cat', he said. 'Looking at the size of the prints and the gaps between them, it was obviously a big animal. The only other thing it could possibly be is a very large dog, but the prints are not the right shape'. (*Local newspaper, unreferenced*). A Labrador sized black-cat, with a white patch on its chest, was seen by several residents of Comberton during a two week period in September 1993.

Leicestershire.

A big cat was reported close to a residential estate in Leicester in March 1995. Diane Russell spotted the cat in the Blackbird Road area of the city at 11.30 p.m. She described it as having a small head, and a long body and tail. Police in Leicestershire have received other reports from rural areas. (*Leicestershire Mercury* 8.3.95).

Dyfed, Wales.

More than a hundred farmers gathered at a public meeting in Pontrhydfenigaid, near Tregaron, on the 16th December to discuss livestock deaths in the area. Ex-zookeeper, Quentin Rose, formerly an employee of Howlett's Zoo in Kent, claimed that either a puma or a leopard was responsible for the deaths of more than 20 sheep. The farmers want to employ Mr Rose to track down the animal and will ask the Welsh Office for official support. (BBC Wales Ceefax 17.12.1995).

Highland, Scotland.

Prints believed to be those of a big cat were found by Stuart and Tina Grant, near their home in remote Strathglass, near Beauly. They made a plaster cast of one of the prints, which measured 12 cm by 8 cm. (Aberdeen Evening Express 20.11.1995).

OTHER MAMMALS

GOATSUCKER ATE TEDDY BEAR

A 'mysterious blood-sucking beast' known as 'Chupacabras' or 'Goat-Sucker', is causing uproar in Puerto Rico. Police state the animal is responsible for the deaths of dozens of goats, cats, dogs, turkeys and rabbits, and even horses and cows. It is said to rip out the organs of its animal victims. In November attacks were being reported daily on news radio, and in the newspaper El Vocero. A witness from the city of Canovanas described the animal as about four feet tall, and resembling a monkey with no tail. The beast was said to have attacked thirty five times in the city during the autumn months, despite being hunted by a posse led by the mayor every Sunday.

In Caguas the beast was said to have entered a house through a bedroom window, destroyed a teddy bear, and left 'a puddle of slime and a piece of rancid white meat on the windowsill'. The householder described the Chupacabras as having huge red eyes and hairy arms. (No description of the Teddy Bear was available). In an early morning raid on a junkyard in the same city, five sheep, four geese and a turkey were reportedly killed. A vet from the Agriculture department investigated and concluded that the animals had died from natural causes, and that none had bled to death. Local sceptics claimed that wild monkeys had attacked the livestock.

There were similar unexplained animal deaths on the island in 1975, when goats, ducks, geese and rabbits were killed in the vicinity of Moca. UFO sightings were also reported in the area. (See 'Modern Mysteries of the World' by J & C Bord). (Aberdeen Press and Journal 21.11.1995).

WILD ROCKER

Police in Suffolk are probing claims that a wild animal terrorised travellers by rocking their caravan. (ITV Teletext 25.12.1995)

DINOSAURS

DINOSAUR DEATH THEORY ON TEST

The voyage of the Joides Resolution may explain the extinction of the dinosaurs. A team on board the research ship, run by the Joint Oceanographic Institute's Deep Earth Sampling programme, will drill into the seabed at the Chicxulub crater off the Mexico coast, hoping to find evidence of a giant meteorite which lead to mass extinction of life-forms. Recent images from the space-shuttle identified concentric circles 180km - 300km in diameter at the site.

The theory to be tested by the team of thirty five scientists is that a giant meteorite plunged through the atmosphere 65 million years ago, and impacted with such force that debris was thrown into the upper atmosphere causing total darkness for fifty years. This killed off plants, causing many animals to starve, and extraterrestrial material polluted sea and land creating further destruction.

The team will take core samples from the sediment and seabed at the bottom of the crater. The critical level is the K-T line between the end of the Cretaceous period and the start of the Tertiary - the point in time when dinosaurs became extinct. If the theory is correct, this layer should show high levels of Iridium gases, extraterrestrial amino acids, and other debris.

Chandra Wickramasinghe, who, together with Sir Fred Hoyle, first put forward the meteorite theory in 1976, said 'The events of sixty five million years ago, we believe, involved the break-up of a large comet as it swerved past Jupiter. Large pieces collided with Earth and caused the extinction of dinosaurs and 75% of all living species'. (Sunday Times 24.12.1995).

DINOSAUR DISCOVERIES

The fossil of an Oviraptor killed in a sandstorm whilst hatching eggs, has been discovered in Mongolia. According to Mark Norrell, of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, whose team discovered the 75 million year old fossil, the find 'changes the way we look at dinosaurs'. It suggests that dinosaurs protected and reared their young in a bird-like way, rather than leaving eggs to hatch by themselves. Robin Cocks, Keeper of Palaeontology at the Natural History Museum in London, said "We've always suspected this happened, but we've never seen it. We know about the eggs and we've seen dinosaurs close to them, but we've never seen the two together before. It's very exciting" (Independent 2.12.1995).

A new species of pterodactyl, discovered by British scientists, has been named *Arthurdactylus conandoylei*, in celebration of Conan Doyle's classic novel 'The Lost World'.

The fossil, which has a wing-span of six metres, was identified by Dr. David Martill of Portsmouth University, and Dino Frey of the State Natural History Museum, in Karlsruhe, Germany. Dr. Martill said that the site where it was found, at Shapada Do Araripe in north-eastern Brazil, resembled Conan Doyle's mythical lost world. (The Times 19.8.1995).

ESCAPES.

Two chimpanzees caused chaos when they escaped from Southport Zoo on Christmas Eve. One fled to a pitch and putt course, where she was cornered and shot with a tranquilizer gun. She lurched into a cafe causing customers to abandon their afternoon teas, and swung on to the roof, before the drug finally took effect. The other, a male, headed for the pier and created havoc amongst a group of pensioners on a day trip. A 73 year old woman was treated for cuts, bruises and shock after she fended off the chimp which was trying to steal her handbag. Zoo owner Douglas Petrie, keepers and police, including marksmen from the Tactical Aid Unit, chased the chimp to the end of the pier where it trapped three people inside a building. Officers used loud-hailers to warn them to stay inside. Concerned that the animal might climb down to the beach and head back into town, Mr Petrie reluctantly agreed it should be shot. Police said the escape was the subject of further enquiries. (*ITV Teletext, BBC Ceefax 25.12.1995, Daily Mail 26.12.1995*).

More than 300 crocodiles which escaped when flood waters inundated farms near Bangkok, Thailand, are being hunted down by a speedboat task force armed with assault rifles, stun guns and nets. Some of the crocodiles are reported to be more than thirteen feet long. Local fishermen have been hauling up crocodiles in their nets, and two have been bitten. A bounty of £75 has been placed on each croc, and tourists have been warned to swim only in hotel pools. (*The Times 28.9.1995*).

MISCELLANEOUS

TRANS-SEXUAL FISH.

A species of fish has been discovered off the coast of Japan that can change sex at will, altering the structure of its genitalia and brain to match the social occasion. (*Independent 24.11.1995*).

GIANT LOBSTER

Divers clearing a sea-bed rubbish mound near a disused section of the naval base at Portland, Dorset caught a giant lobster. The 15lb lobster, christened 'Neptune' is five times normal size. It has been transferred to the Sea Life centre at Weymouth until the clearance work is completed. (*Daily Mail 8.1.1996*)

MULTI-STOREY SNAKE

A three-foot long black Taiwanese Beauty was found slithering along the sixth floor of the West Park multi-storey car park in Southampton, in October. Two white 'snake eggs' found in the car park turned out to be peppermints. (*Southampton Daily Echo 12.10.1995*).

A ZOO IN HIS LUGGAGE

Airport security staff in Cairo, Egypt, discovered a mini-zoo in a Russian passenger's suitcase. The case contained two live crocodiles, two baby foxes, 17 chameleons, 5 gerbils and 28 lizards. (*Daily Star* 2.10.1995).

STRANGE SMELL IN SALISBURY

Police officers digging near a Salisbury footpath, after complaints from residents of an awful smell in the area, unearthed a shallow grave. It contained the body of a large lizard, three feet, six inches long. The lizard was disposed of by environmental health officers. (*Salisbury Journal* 17.8.1995).

INVEST IN PESTS

Shares in Fumakilla surged on the Tokyo stock market, following news that poisonous Australian Red Backed Spiders have been sighted several times in Osaka, Japan. (*Independent* 29.11.1995).

TAKE MY LLAMA

Argentinian animal breeder Leopoldo Canari wants to exchange his six-legged llama for a television set. He would prefer to make the deal with a scientist, as he thinks that the animal may help advance science, and requires a battery operated TV set as there is no electricity supply to his home in the Andean Mountains. Form an orderly queue please... (*Die Welt* 30.11.1995).

Newsfile Correspondents:

Tom Anderson, Sally Parsons, Mr and Mrs J Love, Richard Muirhead, COUDi, Ian Sherred, Wolfgang Schmidt, Keith Williams.

HAVE YOU ANY SURPLUS BOOKS, MAGAZINES OR VIDEO TAPES FEATURING CRYPTOZOOLOGICAL, ZOOLOGICAL OR FORTEAN MATERIAL? WE BUY AND SELL SUCH THINGS AND ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN BUYING, OR EXCHANGING YOUR SURPLUS.

TELEPHONE OR WRITE

The Quagga Project.

by Chris Moiser.

The Quagga (*Equus quagga quagga*) was a type of zebra. It lacked stripes at its rear end and the background colour to its stripes was brown. It is thought to have become extinct on the 12th of August 1883 when the last individual in captivity died. The last wild Quagga had almost certainly died before 1870. Their demise was most probably as a result of being hunted for meat, and as a source of leather for grain bags.

These animals had initially been common, and possibly because their stripes were less spectacular than those of other zebras, no serious attempts were made to breed them in European zoos. Certainly there were Quaggas in Europe. In Great Britain they were exhibited in several zoological collections and some were in private hands.

They seemed to domesticate very easily and in the 1820's a gentleman called Sherrif Parkin was regularly drawn through Hyde Park in a carriage pulled by a pair that were trained to harness. Unfortunately, by the time that the increasing rarity of the animals was discovered the European Zoos were down to a few elderly mares. South African game conservation laws came too late as well, and at that time would have been difficult, if not impossible, to enforce anyway.

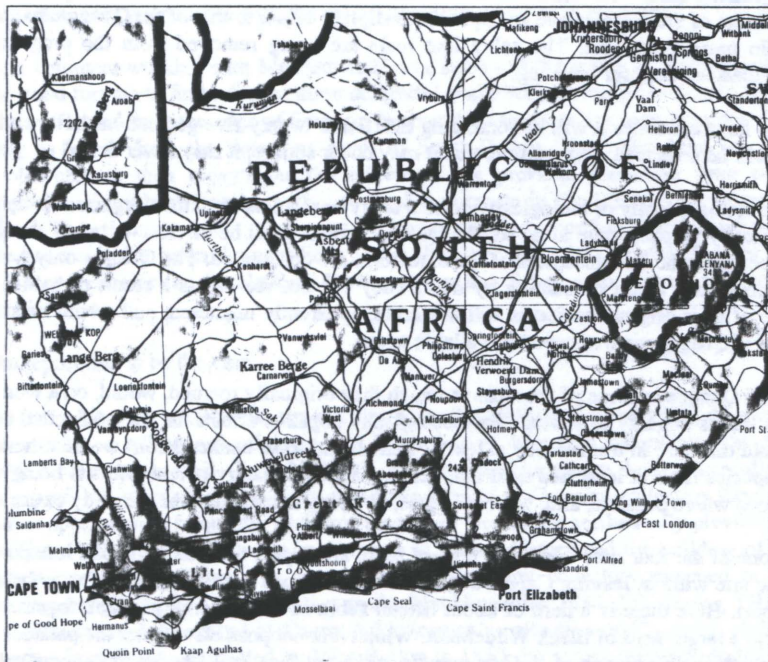
Zebra classification is, even now, somewhat confused, and the taxonomic position of the Quagga was, until recently, extremely uncertain. Some of the confusion existing because one eminent taxonomist suggested that the Quagga was more closely related to the horse than the zebras.

The position of the Quagga's classification was effectively resolved during the 1980s as a result of a series of coincidental happenings.

An American researcher had contacted Reinhold Rau, the chief taxidermist at the South African Museum in Cape Town, to see if he could obtain some zebra tissue samples for DNA and protein analysis. Mr. Rau, probably the most knowledgeable man in the world on matters relating to the Quagga, unbeknownst to the American had some dried muscle and blood from the Quagga. He had obtained these when he remounted the South African museum Quagga foal in 1969.

This material was of great interest to the Americans, and they were subsequently able to extract DNA from it. The DNA was in small fragments, but these were big enough to be compared with DNA from modern, extant zebras. These comparisons showed the Zebra and Quagga DNA to be very similar. The similarity was so great that it is now thought that the Quagga was almost certainly a subspecies of the Common or Plains Zebra.

From the geographical viewpoint this would make sense as the Quagga lived, as far as we know, in the Karoo and the Orange Free State in South Africa, i.e. on the edge of the normal range of the Plains Zebra.



South Africa showing the Orange Free State and the Karoo

If the Quagga was only a subspecies of the Plains Zebra then the genes that made the animal a Quagga may still exist, hidden, in other Plains Zebra. If this is so it should be possible to re-create the Quagga by appropriate selective breeding.

Interestingly, if the Quagga was a subspecies of the Plains Zebra then it's Latin name should be changed accordingly. As the Quagga was described BEFORE the Plains Zebra, under the rules of Zoological Nomenclature, the Quagga's name has priority and the Plains Zebra loses the name *Equus burchelli* to become *Equus quagga* followed by the subspecies name; i.e. The Quagga would be *Equus quagga quagga*, and Chapman's Zebra would be *Equus quagga antiquorum*, etc. Thus another degree of confusion is added to Zebra classification.

The Quagga project came into being in the mid 1980's, and when sufficient funds had been collected the initial breeding stock was brought together in 1987/8. To start the project Plains Zebra were brought from Etosha National park and from Zululand. These animals were selected on the basis of their lack of stripes on the rear end, and their brown background colour.

Originally the animals were kept at Vrolijkheid, near Robertson; but they were subsequently moved to four separate sites in the Cape Town Area, where they now reside. The project is effectively in its early days, but it is progressing quite well. There are now some zebra foals that are of the second generation born into the project. Some of these foals have an appearance slightly closer to that of the Quagga than their parents; others remain more zebra like. The zebra like foals are being removed from the programme and the Quagga like foals are kept for breeding.

According to most estimates it will be something like ten to twenty-five generations before a truly Quagga like animal will be produced. It is possible that it may occur sooner; it may never occur!

Whether or not it is morally or biologically correct to try to recreate an extinct organism is debatable. Even if it was generally inappropriate to do so, the Quagga project must be as close to being acceptable as it is possible to be when the circumstances of the extinction are considered. The Quagga only went extinct, as far as we know, as a result of hunting by man. They did not die out as a result of habitat destruction, indeed some of their original habitat is still available, apparently unaltered; and would be suitable for re-introductions if Quagga were to become available again.

To replace the Quagga in some of the areas in which they originally roamed, would, on a world wide scale, be a tiny act that is unlikely to produce any ecologically negative effects. In the intellectual sense it would perhaps herald the start, in a small way at least, of an almost 'post-conservation' world, where many of the threatened species have at least had their numbers stabilised in captivity and effort is being committed to reintroductions where possible, and, where feasible, to trying to recreate other recently extinct types.

Although none of the four sites where the project zebra are kept is open to the public it is possible to view them on one site without leaving Cape Town. This is the Groot Schuur estate which is between the city and the airport. Here there is a herd of about fifteen zebra in a very large paddock together with several Bontebok and a larger herd of Black Wildebeest. Whilst it is not possible to enter the paddock it is possible to walk along the side of much of it. Cars may be parked at the Cecil Rhodes monument car park, where there is a display board giving details of the Quagga project. Behind the monument there is also a tea room which serves excellent gooseberry cheese-cake and is on the way to view the zebra.

Dr. David Barnaby and Chris Moiser visited South Africa in the summer of 1995 to view the Quagga project in progress. David Barnaby hopes to publish a book on the Quagga in 1996.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: The probable re-birth of the Quagga is an exciting prospect for zoologists worldwide, but the concept of re-constituting species, whether, as in this case by selective breeding, or by use of genetic technology as in the case of the Japanese Crested Ibis is potentially revolutionary. There are persistent rumours that zoologists in the United States are carrying out experiments whereby DNA from a frozen mammoth from the Siberian permafrost has been 'injected' into a fertilised ovum from an Asiatic Elephant, with the intention of attempting to 're-constitute' the Woolly Mammoth. Whatever the truth of this rumour it seems certain that zoologists across the science will have to adjust to some revolutionary new concepts over the next century.

A MALAYAN MYSTERY MAN-BEAST

by
Clinton Keeling.

The following was told to me in March 1961, and I believe it to be perfectly true. As an introduction, I am a professional zoologist and ex-zoological garden curator who is primarily concerned with the educational side of his work, and wild animal husbandry; I've written a total of thirty-three animal books and, since the age of nine, have kept no less than seven hundred and thirty-five animal species.

In January 1961 I went to stay in the village of Kirkby Misperton in North Yorkshire as resident director at the zoological park being built there: however, I soon (correctly), detected the way it was going, and left there with no regrets at the end of the following March. In retrospect my decision to pull out was a wise one, as the place, now known as Flamingoland, has had a chequered career, to say the very least....

During my time there I was befriended by a local family, and spent many evenings in their hospitable home. The man - perhaps I'd better not give his name, but his initials were T.B - sometimes did casual work for me, and I got to know him quite well. His whole life was bound up in the surrounding Vale of Pickering, and he had few interests outside his family, although he had served in Malaya during the Emergency in the mid 1950's, during which he had often gone out on anti-terrorist patrols. In short, he was a simple, but by no means stupid, man who I never found out to be a liar. If this latter comment sounds somewhat strange it's because I've been let down and lied to so often that long ago I arrived at the unfortunate stage whereby I trust hardly anyone, but I never found T.B out to be a liar. Note that well, as its highly relevant to this article.

Like so many Yorkshiremen T.B had an excessively soft, almost effeminate, accent and spoke in a dozy sort of way (just as a certain well-known broadcaster on gardening does), with the result that my attention sometimes wandered from what he was saying, but on this occasion I soon found myself listening intently to him. One evening he asked:

"Are tha goin' ter 'ave any Moonkeys overta road?"

"Yes, definitely, as I'm particularly interested in Apes and Monkeys".

"Woonce when Ah were in Malaya Ah nearly shot a great big Moonkey".

"Oh, yes?"

"Ar, Ah were on patrol and Ah saw what Ah thought were a bandit in t' grass, so Ah cocked me goon an' were just goin' ter shoot when it turned away an' Ah saw it were a great big Moonkey".

"Just how big?"

"About as big as him" - and he pointed to his eleven year-old son.

Now, the biggest Monkey in Malaya, by far, is the pig-tailed Macaque (*Macacus nemestrinus*), but even a

large male would have been nothing like the size of that hefty lad, so I pricked up my ears a little more intelligently.

"What colour was it?"

"Like that", and he pointed to a mid-brown cushion.

At that stage I was not even half-convinced, so I thought I'd catch him out.

"Oh yes, I know the species you mean; I cannot remember its name offhand, but it's got a long tail".

"No, definitely not, it 'addent got a tail at all, that I do remember" - he spoke with quite uncharacteristic verve for a Yorkshireman.

"I think you are mistaken there T".

"Naw, Ah tell thee it 'addent got one. Ah ought ter know because it'd just turned it's back on me, and Ah were surprised because Ah allus thought all Moonkeys 'ad tails".

Nothing I could say would induce him to alter his description of the creature, which of course fits no known Primate native to the Malayan mainland, but he was a most unimaginative person, who had nothing whatsoever to gain by spinning me a yarn, so since then I have often wondered what it was I am certain that he really did see.

Offhand it might be argued that it was a fair to middling description of a large female Orang Utan, but of course this species is restricted to Sumatra and Borneo, so what other explanation could there be?

For many years I was convinced he'd seen an example of the strange, if not semi-mythical, Orang Pendek ("Little Man"), but here I'm the first to admit that, again, we are talking about something that seems to be confined to Sumatra. It has been only fairly recently that I've recalled some strange events in Perak, in the early 1950's, when several reports and sightings were made of a number of Ape-like or Man-like creatures that struck such terror into some rubber-tappers who saw them that a police escort had to be provided before they agreed to return to work.

I think this was the area where T.B performed his military duties - and certainly the time of day is about right - so could this strange beast have been one of these - whatever they were, as they appeared in various places so suddenly and disappeared so completely that they were never, to my knowledge, given a name?

We'll probably never know, but one thing I'm certain of is that T.B., who now lives in retirement in Pickering, was telling the absolute truth.

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by Dr Karl P.N.Shuker and Stephen Shipp.

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...Continued on page 30

MORT SAYS HE WROTE THIS BUT WE CAN'T PROVE IT!

by Mort (or so we are lead to believe)

Proof. What is it about proof that sends people into such a frenzy? Their constant search for it, and the consequences when it is obtained to their satisfaction never cease to amaze. proof cannot be had...allow me to demonstrate.

In recent issues of 'Animals & Men' much has been made of the unreliability of eye-witness evidence. Why? Surely this is a case of stating the obvious. Why stop at eyewitness evidence? Surely almost all evidence is unreliable.

If I was to state that I had seen our esteemed editor on TV you either believe me or you don't. I could produce a photograph of the screen, but lets face it, it could be an elaborate hoax. I could go the whole hog and provide you with a video of the programme together with a video of me watching it, but the cynics amongst you could, no doubt, provide a fiendishly complicated explanation as to how I could have faked it.

What the whole thing boils down to is this. The only person who knows whether I saw Jon on the TV is me. As it happens I did (nice hat Jon). Obviously all the above applies to unknown animals.

Having dealt with the witness side of it - bring on a corpse! If a corpse was found, what has actually been proved? Say, for example, the body of a marine elephant was washed up on the shores of Loch Ness. The papers would all go mad with the story and the identity of the Loch Ness Monster would have been proved for them, and for the vast majority of their readers but has it? All that has been proved, if we are to accept that nobody fabricated the elephants adaptations and then dumped it, is that a marine elephant died in Loch Ness.

Reading this back, it makes me sound like a Fortean. I'm not. When it comes to my area of cryptozoology, (lake monsters, sea serpents and dinosaur survivals), I'm a believer. what I'm trying to say is that we shouldn't become tied down by trying to accomplish the impossible. Unless, in the case of Loch Ness, for example, we can follow every single 'monster' with a camera and eyewitnesses, twenty-four hours a day for some time, nothing is proved.

None of the above is saying that you shouldn't filter evidence. I, for example, don't regard any of Frank Searles' photographs as useful, but I can't prove that they don't show the Loch Ness Monster. The only person who knows for certain is Frank!

In the end, however, it basically comes down to belief. You either do or you don't. Life is a lot more interesting WITH these creatures around, so stop trying to prove it and have a little faith!

Cryptocetology: The Page 254 Story.

Part Two in a series of articles on Mystery Whales by Darren Naish.

(Having given a general introduction to cryptocetology in a previous issue of Animals & Men ⁽¹⁾, I here concentrate on a single event. It could serve as a case study giving a wider view of diversity among the Cetacea while also demonstrating their prominence in modern cryptozoology, hopefully expanding the notions I propounded in my first article. certainly, there can be no turning back....)

This is the story of Scott's mystery dolphin: an animal I found in a book. Before going on any further, I must introduce the man to whom we owe this mystery. Sir Peter Scott.

Sir Peter was born in 1909, the son of the famed Antarctic explorer, and early on developed an interest in natural history ⁽²⁾. Fortunately gifted with an artistic ability, he became increasingly skilled at painting and drawing animal subjects. By 1933 he was exhibiting his work. Scott's passion was birds and, judging from his paintings and later conservation work, waterfowl were especially close to his heart. Scott was, however, a student of all Nature and in the course of his life became closely involved with probably every group of living organisms. In 1946, after war-time service, he founded the Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (then just the Wildfowl Trust), and later expanded it to incorporate six centres in England and one in Scotland. Scott's conservation work is also marked by his role as co-founder of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (then the World Wildlife Fund) in 1961. He was responsible for designing their Panda logo ⁽³⁾, ⁽⁴⁾. Sir Peter was also influential in a great many other conservational bodies. He travelled all over the world, starting officially in 1956, and in 1983 and 1985 published his travel diaries ⁽⁵⁾, ⁽⁶⁾. These provide a stunning visual record of the places and the living things he saw around the world (it is one of these living things that we are interested in).

He created hundreds of stunning wildlife paintings, even providing illustrations for a Brooke Bond picture card series. ⁽³⁾.

(Editors Note: For readers outside the UK, I should explain that Brook Bond are a company who sell packaged tea and tea bags, and for many years they have given away collectors cards, similar to Bubblegum Cards, as an incentive for potential purchasers of their products. Many of these sets featured animals and plants, and were avidly collected by young naturalists during the 1960's and 1970's. Some of these sets of cards are now very collectible).

A special point of interest to Cryptozoologists is that Sir Peter was a firm believer in the Loch Ness Monster ⁽⁷⁾. He made several graphic versions of what he believed the Loch Ness Monster looked like ⁽⁸⁾, and, in 1975, teamed up with Robert Rhines to name it *Nessiteras rhombopteryx* ⁽⁹⁾. (Incidentally, also on a cryptozoological note, he believed that a large chameleon he kept at Slimbridge, informally referred to as 'The Oldeani Monster', represented a new species for which he suggested the name *Chamaeleo oldeanii* ⁽⁹⁾,). Scott achieved more than probably any other conservationist in history, and anyone who gains any enjoyment from the natural world should hold the greatest reverence for him. Sadly in 1990, the year after his 80th birthday, he died.

Less than two years ago, I began a private 'study' of whales and dolphins, basically to familiarise myself with their appearances in preparation for possible field sightings. Obtaining the available literature, and paying particular attention to how well illustrations matched available photographs, I learned morphologies, colours, markings and the respective names of the seventy six (or so) species.

Scott's renditions of things natural are works of great panache and accuracy. I adore his crisp, colourful style. As he painted creatures from the field as accurately as I can imagine, I chose a couple of books he wrote and illustrated so that I could examine his renditions of cetaceans, plus, in any case, I like looking at his paintings. Two books I found were the two volumes of *Travel Diaries of a Naturalist*.^{(5) (6)}

In these volumes Scott records and illustrates a number of cetaceans he encountered on his voyages, and there, on page 254, was an illustration featuring a dolphin species completely unrecognisable to me - because, I hasten to add, the species was not one officially recognised! This animal then, is the subject of this article and it is my purpose here to attempt to identify it satisfactorily. Before we can begin to consider other possibilities, let us see what Scott himself had to say about it.

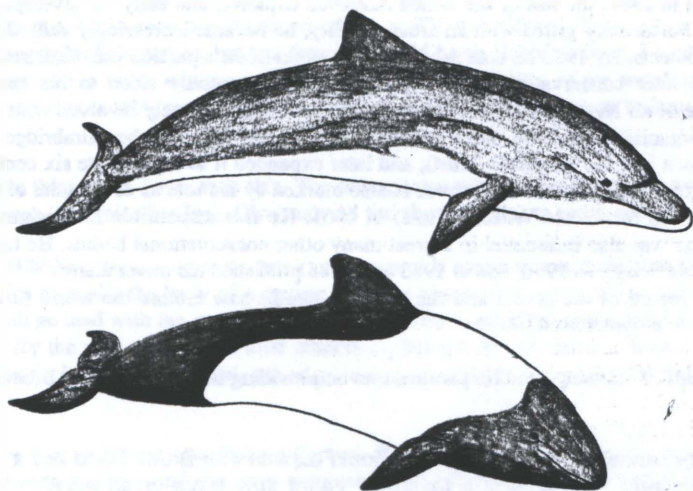


Fig. 1. The two dolphin species seen by Peter Scott in the Magellan Straits: the mysterious 'white bellied dolphin' (above) and the Piebald Dolphin. In the original painting, a second 'white belly' is illustrated behind the first and five more Piebalds can be seen further away still. Adult Piebalds measure between 1.3 and 1.7 metres: by comparing the two species in the painting we can see that the two 'white bellies' are not much bigger. (Illustration by the author after Scott⁽⁵⁾).

Scott's caption to the illustration reads:

'Two unidentified dolphins, possibly the White-bellied, (Cephalorhynchus albiventris), riding the Navarino's stern wave'.

Seen on the fourth of February 1968, they were actually amongst a large pool of Piebald dolphins (*C. commersoni*)⁽¹⁰⁾ - one of these being the other individual pictured in Fig.1 - and, whilst the Piebalds got quite some description in the narrative, the only mention of the 'mystery' dolphins in the text is *'...at one stage two of a different kind came in - rather brownish with white belly only'*.

PROCESSES OF ELIMINATION.

Before saying anything else about the 'mystery' dolphins ('M' from now on), I think that we must first consider the identity that Scott himself forwarded; that of the 'White-bellied dolphin'.

THE WHITE BELLIED DOLPHIN.

I ran into serious research problems at this point. Exactly what a 'white-bellied' dolphin is turned out to be quite a problem - this name had been used for at least five completely different dolphin species (amongst whom white bellies are common!). However, Scott narrowed down the particular type of 'white belly' he was talking about by assigning it the scientific name of *Cephalorhynchus albiventris*.

This name, created by either Perez Canto or Rudolph Philippi between 1893 and 1896⁽¹¹⁾, though, at the time, they thought that the animal belonged to the porpoise genus *Phocaena*, has since been sunk into that of the Chilean dolphin (*C. eutropia*), a species first named by Gray in 1846. Therefore, this species is the one that Scott thought he was dealing with. But, with only this cryptic illustration to bear him out, could he have been right in the identification?

'M' AS CHILEAN DOLPHIN.

Fig. Two is an illustration of the Chilean Dolphin. As is uniform throughout the four *Cephalorhynchus* species, its head is quite blunt and the beak is not sharply demarcated from the forehead. The dorsal fin *"...is very low, backward leaning and with a blunt apex"*⁽¹¹⁾. It is a small dolphin, averaging 1.2 m and 45 kg, described as pure black (but with three white patches beneath the throat, behind the flippers and around the anus); confusingly, however, in 1972, Japanese cetologist Masharu Nishiwaki described it as *'generally grey'*.

This description of colour is not consistent with other texts - indeed - some authors have elected to call it the 'Black Dolphin'! Anyhow, virtually nothing is known about this species. Except, of course, that it is found around the Chilean coast and, as far as is known, nowhere else.

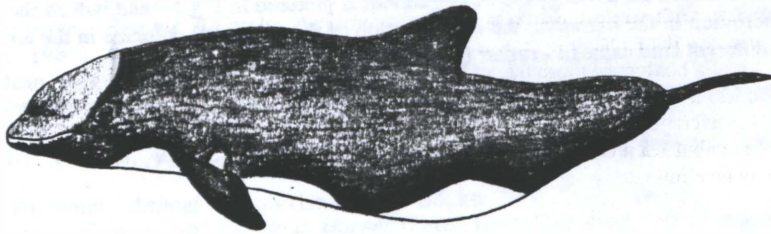


Fig. 2. The Chilean Dolphin (*Cephalorhynchus eutropia*).
 This depiction is probably less than 90% accurate; all the illustrations I have seen feature markedly different animals! Furthermore, no good photos have yet been published. Picture by the author based on Ritchie ⁽¹¹⁾, Camm ⁽¹²⁾, and Camm ⁽¹³⁾.

Given the known details of the Chilean dolphin ('C' from now on), I am not convinced that 'M' represents the same animal. Scott described, (and painted), 'M' as 'rather brownish'. 'C' is pure black. Whilst this may seem somewhat niggling, Scott recorded, (and painted), the black markings on the accompanying piebalds as simply 'black', yet 'C' and the piebalds are the same kind of black, and I would argue that the shade of blackness in the markings of the two cannot be distinguished in the field. Possibly, therefore, Scott was recording the definite hue of 'M', therefore proving it different from 'C'. Scott also gave 'M' white lower jaws, which do not occur in 'C', and an unbroken, white underside extending from the lower jaw to beneath the tailstock, which again does not occur in 'C'. Two other features, but this time of morphology rather than pigmentation, are not consistent with an identity of 'C' for 'M'.

First is the shape of the head which, in Scott's painting is not comparable with that of any *Cephalorhynchus*, being long-beaked, fairly low and with a high degree of demarcation between beak and forehead. Scott illustrates the head of the Piebald Dolphin quite correctly and, if 'M' were really depicting 'C', then we would expect it to have almost exactly the same shape of head as do Scott's Piebalds. As it does not, my doubts are raised.

The second morphological feature is the dorsal fin. We have already seen how, in 'C' this is a low-lying, backward-pointing structure with a blunt apex, (described in ref. 13 as 'rounded'). 'M', however, has a moderately high, somewhat pointed dorsal fin that does not really compare to the previously given description.

THE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN.

The Bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*), was the only species (without other immediate non-qualifying features), that compared at all well with these morphological features. However, it can be eliminated as a candidate because, as far as I know, there have been no bottlenoses reported with bright, white undersides. (Actually, bottlenoses with white undersides are known, but the white grades up into the darker body colour - it is not sharply demarcated from it as in 'M'). Likewise, though the dorsal fin of 'M' resembles the tall, pointed fin of a bottlenose more than it does that of 'C', it is not really that much like a bottlenose fin, which always has a sickle-like curve. Also, the average length of a bottlenose is about 3m, which is more than twice the average length of 'M' (its length is suggested by comparison with the Piebalds in the illustration - they are about 1.5 metres long and 'M' appears only slightly larger). Bottlenoses, I believe, can therefore definitely be eliminated as possible candidates for 'M'.

WAS SCOTT TOTALLY ACCURATE?

Up till now, I have been assuming one aspect without question and that is the degree of accuracy of Scott's painting. Clearly, 'M' does not match any known dolphin species in either morphology or pigmentation and this, in view of Scott's super-accurate renditions elsewhere, lean towards the conclusion that he saw and painted a dolphin species as yet unknown to science.

However, the paintings Scott is so famous for being meticulously detailed and accurate with are those of birds, the animals he had the closest ties with in his work. Having praised Scott's attention to detail and accuracy it seems that Scott might not have been as accurate with cetaceans as he was with birds. Could analysis of his illustrations provide any answers to the enigma?

ASSESSING ACCURACY OF CETACEANS IN ILLUSTRATIONS.

Cetaceans have never been illustrated well, mostly because they are creatures almost permanently submerged. Many are extremely rare and/or poorly known, and many famous illustrations are based entirely on dead, faded specimens. For these reasons, cetaceans as illustrated are, generally, dreadfully inaccurate. It is only with recent advances in underwater photography that the true life appearances of many species have become, or are becoming known. It is clear nowadays, for example, that porpoises are sleek and streamlined. Prior to the 1970's, however, this was not really acknowledged and porpoises were illustrated as heavy throated, chunky creatures. Scott, who illustrated during this period, therefore made the same forgivable errors as any other artist depicting a cetacean. Other errors are unique to the individual, and, as does anyone, Scott made these too. In all, I found 35 graphic renditions of cetaceans made by Scott between the years 1956 and 1968, depicting 23 different species ('M' not being included incidentally), and, in an attempt to assess the likelihood of 'M' being an inaccurate painting, classified all renditions in terms of their accuracy.

'Accuracy' is a very relative concept but was here determined on two simple factors: depiction of gross morphology (shape of body and extremities) and of pigmentation (distribution of colour on body, and

colours used in depiction). Where either was deemed lifelike, it was rated "1", where not it was rated "0". 'True' life appearance of species concerned was based on comparison of various photos of species in life, with as little reference to other artists renditions as possible. For reasons of space, the table that resulted is not reproduced here, but what did the results indicate?

RESULTS OF ACCURACY 'ASSESSMENT'.

Of the twenty-three species illustrated by Scott (therefore eliciting forty-six separate accuracy assessments), only six of the assessments deserved a "0": none of the species illustrated were deemed inaccurate in both morphology AND pigmentation. Also, only two of the six inaccuracies were deemed 'major' (discussed below in 'What to conclude?'). By my criteria, therefore, Scott was practically 87% accurate in his cetacean renditions: a most illustrious achievement.

WHAT TO CONCLUDE?

However, in that this assessment provides overall judgement, it might be misleading in what it tells us about the validity of 'M'. Particularly telling in this regard are Scott's renditions of Hourglass dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus cruciger*) (see Fig. 3). These illustrations scored "1" on pigmentation, but "0" on morphology as can be seen by the more accurate Hourglass dolphin depicted below Scott's rendition. In this instance Scott was quite inaccurate. Despite his OVERALL excellence in the illustrations, Scott did make notable errors. The validity of 'M', must therefore, remain suspect.

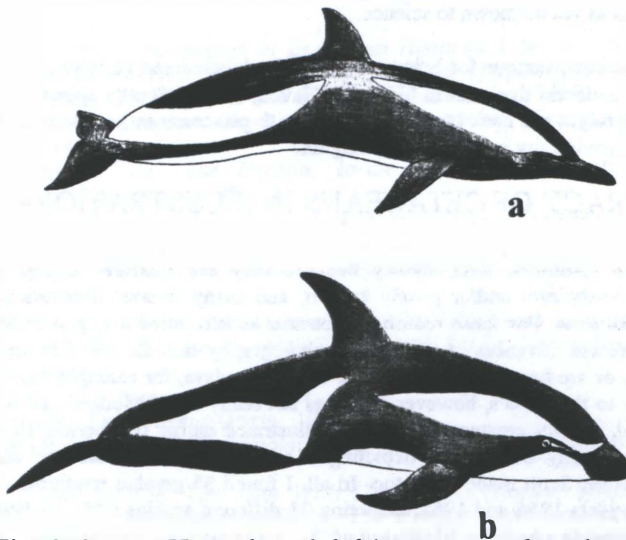


Fig. 3. 3a. An Hourglass dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus cruciger*) as painted by Scott in 1968. Compare this with 3b, an accurate rendition of the same species. (3a from ⁽⁵⁾, 3b after a photograph in ⁽¹²⁾. Pictures by the author).

Other authors appear to have reached this conclusion and subsequently considered 'M' to represent inaccurately depicted Chilean dolphins (though no-one, to my knowledge, has considered the problem posed by 'M' in the depth presented here). For example, Jean-Pierre Sylvestre ⁹¹⁴, in his entry on 'C', includes what sounds suspiciously like Scott's sighting. Others have remarked on recorded instances of Chilean and Piebald dolphins seen together, and I wonder if they were considering Scott's sighting when they wrote these remarks.

I am in two minds about this whole issue, given the dual nature of the evidence presented in this article. Ultimately, the only way of resolving the issue would be to interview those present with Sir Peter at the time of the sighting, sadly an option not available to me due to financial and time restraints. Until then, we are left with an open-ended mystery and a possible new species of the dolphin family left in limbo.

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* * * * *

New and Rediscovered species in Devonshire

by David Bolton

On the trails of snails

Perhaps you have already sensed an undercurrent of excitement going the country rounds, thro' woods, across fields and moor, communicating down the super-highways of hedgerows. The clamouring of rook parliaments have been in extra session whilst the larks have been exalting the news from on high. Murmurings of starlings sussurate with gossip. Something has happened. Not more Royal scandal, nor a pop-star's peccadillo, but events of a completely different magnitude. Now the truth behind the rumours can finally be told. Its official. The secret of 10,000 years can at last be revealed - *Spermodea lamellata* is alive and well and residing in North Devon!

'What', I can imagine you saying, 'is *Spermodea lamellata* when its about, in Devon or anywhere else?' and 'Why all the excitement?'.

Well, it's a small snail and it has never before been found alive in the south-west peninsula. The plated or plaited snail is about 2mm high and the same broad. Shaped a little like a straw bee skep, its shell bears an ornamentation of raised ribs or lamellae that makes it immediately distinctive and imparts a beautiful iridescent sheen, alas, only appreciated with the aid of magnifying lens or microscope.

Geoff Musker, a volunteer working with Museum staff on a survey of the land and freshwater mollusca of Devon, had the good fortune to find a few of these delightful snails whilst sorting samples of leaf-litter and vegetation debris collected from the edge of Exmoor. *Spermodaea lamellata* has been recorded from Devon before, but only as fossils from the limestone caves of South-Devon. These Flandrian fossils probably lived in a cooler climate than today's, as the effects of the previous glaciation were wearing off. Essentially a species of northern Britain, with a few relict outposts in the Weald, they normally live in ancient woodland. The relatively recent upsurge of interest in detailed recording of the distributions of our flora and fauna has resulted in several recent finds across the other side of the Bristol Channel. This led to Dr. Michael Kerney, recorder for the National Mollusc recording Scheme, to suggest that we might yet find it surviving in Devon.

Happily we can report this to be the case.

If you can take just a bit more excitement, we can report another mollusc find which in its way is equally intriguing and perhaps a telling reflection on the dedication of Victorian naturalists. On the 23rd of September 1994, A fresh-water snail, *Gyraulus laevis*, the Smooth Ram's-horn Snail, was re-discovered in Devon after a gap of 144 years. Molluscs were a popular group for Victorian collectors though the large and showy marine species were frequently preferred since they were more aesthetically pleasing to the untutored eye. There was a thriving interest in all forms of natural history and the building of collections was an important part of this phase. For completeness sake many collectors swapped or exchanged specimens and even bought them. It was thus that on the 21st November 1884, J.W. Taylor, THE Victorian mollusc expert authenticated the record in Canon A.M. Norman's collection of *Planorbis glaber* (the old name for *G. laevis* - from Totnes, collected by Miss Bolton in 1850. So, it was purely fortuitous, that with Geoff, I visited the old leat which comes off the River Dart at Totnes. Eight years ago I had noticed the presence of the Curled Pond-weed *Potamogeton crispus*, which I have now come to associate with relatively rich fresh-water mollusc communities.

Armed with a sampling net, I found that the channel, previously dominated by this pond weed, is now choked with the Canadian Pond-Weed, *Elodea canadensis* and Beautiful Water Starwort, *Callitriche cf. hamulata*. The associated mollusc fauna was not exceptional save in the presence of a large Pea-mussel, *Pisidium amnicum*, which until that day, had previously been found only in the lower Exe and Clyst catchments. Whatever these finds contribute towards our understanding of our national faunal distributions, it clearly demonstrates the diversity of wildlife to be found in Devon. It also shows the tremendous contributions made by past workers, and the value of voucher specimens in old collections, and hints at the undiscovered potential for even the most basic natural science research.

Barber's many linked chain.

With the Schengen agreement, allowing citizens of a number of European countries free movement across national borders, but a few days in operation, we can report upon a hitherto unrecognised invasion of our

island nation by residents of the Haute Maritime area of France, remarkable for their exaggerated reputation for possessing a thousand legs apiece. Apparently uninvited, but possibly assisted by UK residents holidaying abroad, these diminutive immigrants have somehow evaded customs controls and phytosanitation to establish a transit camp in a pleasant corner of Plymouth's Central Park. A rapid breeding cycle has resulted in a strong presence and the new residents are now spreading to new areas of the city.

Although the setting of the new population centre is within pleasant park-land, the conditions in which the new residents are surviving are far from salubrious, indeed they border upon our own concepts of festering, beridden by fungi and bacteria. But, although they must seek their shelter under stones, bricks, or even jettisoned plastic bags and the typical rubbish of western civilisations, they appear to be healthy and prolific. We should give them a warm welcome as they are assisting the local residents to recycle both natural plant products but also the deposits of various pets.

Who are these newcomers? The recording team at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in Exeter, have just received news of their positive identification from Dick Jones of the British Myriapod Group, as *Polydesmus barberii*, a millipede. They are new members of a growing band of immigrant species to the South-West, joining plants and animals from around the world. Each newcomer must find a niche in which it can successfully compete, against natives or other introductions, according to its preferences. *Polydesmus barberii* finds itself in competition with the likes of the Pale Worm-slug, *Boetgerilla pallens*, first recorded in the south-west in 1981 and of eastern European descent; Puny Toltecium snails, purportedly from the Mediterranean via New-Zealand, first south-west records made in 1989, but undoubtedly resident for some time before that date. Also from New-Zealand and resident for many generations, *Talitroides dorrici*, the Woodhopper. *P. barberii* may well feel at home with the Girdled Snail, *Hygromia cinctella* from central and southern France, well established and spreading rapidly after 44 years residence, and its close relative, the Hedge Snail, *Hygromia limbata*, established since 1917. But how much foreignness does the garden snail impart, after perhaps 2,000 years, unless you eat it with garlic butter.

These are just a few of the thousands of recognised alien species which have made the successful transition from continental to island dwellers. There are potentially thousands of others which have received assisted passage, some to fail the test of survival through lack of a suitable niche, or an inclement climate, some to become the scourge of agriculture like the Keeled slug, *Miles sowerbyi*, bane of the potato growers, or the New-Zealand Flatworm, whose impact upon the fertility of the soil through its reportedly prodigious appetite for earthworms, we can at this stage only conjecture. Time alone will tell, but it is only by regular observation and monitoring that we can hope to keep apace with a rapidly developing, cosmopolitan flora and fauna.

EDITORIAL NOTE: These two articles were originally commissioned for inclusion in the 1996 Yearbook. A combination of events, especially lack of time, lack of space and computer error, meant that it was not included and had to be held over to this issue. Our apologies to David Bolton, of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, in Exeter (Natural History Section) for the delay.

A GREEN PIECE.

In the weeks immediately preceding the Christmas Holiday I received a number of startling submissions and pieces of information. It all started when just after nine one morning the telephone rang. I picked up the receiver to be greeted with the dulcet tones of an old cryptozoological pal.. "*This is Eric from Denmark here...have you heard about the green cat?*". Of course, I hadn't. I don't take a daily paper, and my news input comes from the Teletext and from letters and 'phone calls from colleagues and friends across the globe. Eric promised me an article and a few days later it arrived together with the most extraordinary photograph of an unbearably cute, olive green kitten with the most verdantly green underparts I have ever seen on any animal, except possibly a Chinese Bamboo Snake. As we print in black and white I decided to regretfully forego the privilege of paying an exorbitant sum of money for the rights to print the picture, and therefore I ask you just to accept my word that the animal was totally extraordinary in appearance.

I mentioned this fantastic felid to Karl Shuker, who bowled me over by saying that he, in fact, had a file on anomalous green creatures, and mentioned a 1979 paper by R.A.LEWIN and P.T.ROBINSON (Nature 278 (March 29): 445-447). This discussed the peculiar greening of polar bears in several zoos across the world. These were eventually found to be due to an unlikely algae infestation.

A few days later, Richard Muirhead came to visit. He too had a tale to tell. This time it was a dog, and once again, in the words of a reasonably well known Manchester Beat Combo called 'New Order', "*Everything's gone Green!*" Richard sent me a story as well, and it seems logical to present them here, together.,

A TRUE STORY OF A GREEN DOG

by Richard Muirhead.

In January 1987 I, your roving Wiltshire correspondent saw a green dog! Yes, I was sober! No, I was not hallucinating.!

Fortunately I was living close to where the dog was born, so I was able to see for myself that yes, indeed, a peppermint-green coloured puppy had been born sometime around the 24th January 1987. I took a photograph of the dog, indoors, but it didn't come out! Now, doesn't that sound familiar?

The dog was one of a litter of nine puppies born to a three year old Labrador x Collie bitch. Four of them were black, four of them golden, and the ninth light green. Judging from the appearance of the green dog in the photograph printed in the local newspaper the dog itself looked rather feeble and forlorn but I would not necessarily suggest that its feebleness and unusual colour were necessarily related. Unfortunately this photograph, which appeared in the Middlesborough Evening Gazette on January 29th 1987, was in black and white!

The owner of this dog, Joyce Morris said "*we are not sure which dog fathered the pups, but I am certain that it wasn't green!*". This is certainly a comforting thought for residents of Middlesborough, because by now, nine years the place would presumably be overwhelmed with green dogs!

Officialdom, in the form of a vet put the greenness down to 'Utera verdi' in the mother's womb. This is a thick, dark green substance which can, apparently stain things it touches. Why, however was only one puppy affected? If 'Utera Verdi' exists why do we hardly ever hear of light, or even dark green dogs? Unless, of course 'Utera Verdi' is particularly rare.

The official source said that the stain would wear off as the dog grew up. This, I find more plausible. I have not, however been able to follow this story up more recently.

Two final thoughts:

Why are there so few naturally green mammals?

and

Is it merely a coincidence that the Chernobyl disaster took place only nine months before the peppermint pub was born?

REFERENCE,

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A GREEN KITTEN

by ERIC SORENSEN

A Zoological sensation just could be on its way from Denmark, as a green (yes) kitten was found on a hayloft. Experts are puzzled as the cat's fur and claws are as green as a copper roof.

Her owner, Pia Bischoff, for many years a breeder of Persian Cats, was wildly surprised and is now talking care of the green wonder, naturally called Miss Greeny, watching its development. The kitten's mother was a tail-less Manx Cat, that had previously only given birth to one (tailed) kitten.

Knud Steensborg, a veterinarian from Bruband has declared the cat totally healthy. Hair samples are currently being investigated. If Miss Greeny keeps her colour, Pia Bischoff will be exhibiting it around the country hoping to start a new breed.

This raises many questions. Jyllandsposten, the newspaper which carried the story, is a serious publication, and has not fabricated this story for a laugh. The cat has even been on television. It has been theorised that it suffers from copper poisoning, but it looks too healthy! The only green mammal that I know of is the sloth, which in the wild has green algae in its fur, but after all we have green reptiles and birds, why shouldn't a green cat evolve? Or is it, perhaps a regression or an atavism? Time will tell.

EDITORS NOTE: The story broke in England in the Daily Mail a week or so later. they speculated that the kitten might have been suffering from an unspecified metabolic disorder, but as Eric says, it looks too healthy for that....

THE A-Z OF CRYPTOZOOLOGY

Part 6

by Jan Williams.

(The latest installment of the series in which our intrepid Newsfile Editor attempts the Herculean task of listing all the animals of interest to cryptozoologist in alphabetical order. C is for Catfish - (snigger) Ed.)

CHIPEKWE

Beast of Lake Bangweulu, Zambia. Quoting native reports in 1933, J.E.Hughes described the Chipekwe as having a smooth, dark, body and a single horn fixed like that of a rhinoceros.

CHUCHUNAA

Name used in Yakut language for remnant hominids of north-eastern Siberia.

COCKATRICE

Creature which in the Middle Ages was believed to be a four legged cock with a crown, thorny pinions and a tail which ended in a hook. When the church at Renwick in Cumbria was demolished in 1733, a 'cockatrice' flew out from the foundations and attacked the workmen. It was destroyed with the branch of a rowan tree, but a huge, black, bird-like creature was still being reported flying around Renwick in the 1960's. In the 15th century a 'cockatrice' was sometimes served at banquets, The dish was prepared by cutting a capon and a suckling pig in half, and sewing the front part of the chicken onto the back part of the pig.

COJE YA MENIA

Water Lion of eastern Angola. Hippo-killing, semi aquatic beast, with large canine teeth or tusks. Tracks resemble those of an elephant, but contain the impression of toes.

COROMANDEL MAN.

Man-Beast reported from Coromandel peninsula, east of Auckland, North Island, New Zealand.

CU SITH

Scottish Highland fairy dog. Described as the size of a two year old heifer, sometimes white, but usually

green, with tails flat and plaited, or curled over their backs. Legend states they always bay three times - loudly enough to be heard by sailors out at sea. One is supposed to haunt the B9008 in Glenlivet forest, Banffshire.

DAEDELUS SEA SERPENT

Captain Peter M'Quhæ gave a detailed account of a 60 foot serpent witnessed by the crew of HMS Daedelus in 1848. The creature had a diameter of 15-16 inches, and was dark brown in colour with yellowish white about the throat. It had no fins, but *'something like the mane of a horse, or rather a bunch of seaweed washed about its back'*.

DARD

Folkloric creature of Austria. A four-legged serpent with the head of a cat, and a mane along its spine.

DI-DI

Wildman of Venezuela and Guyana. Described as short, thick-set, and powerful with reddish-brown fur, and said to live in pairs. (EDITORS NOTE: It has also been suggested that this animal and Ameranthropoides loysii (q.v) are one and the same).

DINGONEK

Aquatic beast of Kenya. Said to be 14-15 feet long, with scale-covered body, and long, broad, tail. Other characteristics include leopard-like spots, and two long fangs in the upper jaw.

DOGLA

Indian native name for large cat which they believe is a hybrid between tiger and leopard.

DOVER DEMON

Four-foot tall entity with huge head and thin, monkey-like body, seen in Dover, Massachusetts, U.S.A in 1977. It had large, shiny orange eyes, long toes and fingers, and a rough, hairless, peach-coloured skin.

DZU-TEH

Huge ape-man of Tibet and northern China. Taller and bulkier than a human, with dark shaggy coat, flat head, and long, powerful arms. Footprints show two pads on the first toe, which points away from the others.

LETTERS PAGE

POSSIBLY THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE THE EDITOR
EVER RECEIVED FROM HIS FATHER! THANX DAD!

WHALE OF A TIME.

(The 'CFZ Yearbook 1996' includes a fascinating article about the Scottish Whaling Industry, that we commissioned from our Scottish Correspondent. With typical bad synchronicity, he sent us a letter containing a few more horrifying facts a few weeks after we had gone to press...)

Dear Jonathan,

Just a few jottings from Smith's book, a lot of which has a local slant, dialect folk songs, etc.

* Rorquals, which included Humpbacks, Finbacks, Blues and Sei Whales, the latter too fast to take until the advent of the Bomb Harpoon by the 'saintly' Svend Foyn were named from the Norwegian 'Royrkval' meaning 'Whale with pleats', referring to its body ridges.

* The aforementioned Scandinavian also devised the Inflation Lance, through which air was pumped to raise the corpse to the surface. The whalers thought it acceptable to cut the whale's cardrum and keep it on the sideboard to 'listen to the sea', as we would a sea shell. However, they thought it barbaric when the Inuit would stand over the body of a whale and catch the diving Fulmars by biting off their heads. Whalemeat tasted like horse-flesh, you hung it 'till it turned black when the oil drips out. Then it was ready. Yum Yum!

* The crew was paid 1s 3d per ton, Fin Whales worked out at one ton per foot.

* Captured Polar Bears were sold to zoos at £35 each and in 1913 Salvesens shipped 800 penguins to London and Edinburgh Zoos.

* 'Moby Dick' was apparently based on 'Mocha Dick', an immense Bull Sperm which attacked a whale boat off Chile in 1810.

* I'll spare you the recipes involving blubber.

Fins ain't what they orca be,

Tom Anderson.
Aberdeen.

THE CASE'... Growing Slowly.

A paper tiger for all case working cryptozoologists to consider. In peaceful West Wellow, a pensioner and her dachshund are set upon by a giant American Cob Chicken (a fighting Kentuckian, perhaps?). Hot wings? certainly, which might put us in mind of Icarus the Bird man and his dad, Stephen Daedelus. In the New Forest, Pony Trekkers and ramblers are terrorised by a rogue pig near Minstead. Funnily enough with its lycanthropic trusty servant pub sign, William Rufus is mixed up in this too. Pinky, and Purkess, the carter who carried poor William to Winchester. If you fancy a spot of twitching in Southampton, you could do worse than Peartree Green, where a pair of picnicking parakeets have been observed.

Cheers,

Hampshire Hog.

CHEMOSIT CAPERS

Dear Mr Downes,

.... I enjoyed the article by Clinton Keeling on the Nandi Bear, in A&M6, especially as this is a cryptid one tends to hear little about these days. I would like to suggest a possible identity for the 'young half and half', that was apparently on display in Halifax in the 1730s.

It is described as having a head like a Hyena, and the hind parts of a 'Frieseland Bear'. Mr Keeling suggests that a Polar Bear is meant by this, but I wonder if some form of the widespread Brown Bear is the species actually referred to? If so, it may be that the 'half and half' was a specimen of the Brown Hyena.

In the eighteenth Century, the most familiar species of Hyena would have been the Striped Hyena, which has a wide range over the northern half of Africa, the Near-East and India. No doubt, many examples of Striped Hyena entered European menageries, The brown Hyena is a much rarer beast, from Southern Africa, and was not officially described by science until 1820. Perhaps if a Brown Hyena came into the hands of a menagerie owner, he might well have described it as having the head of a (striped) hyena, and the body of a (brown) bear, due to the rough, long-haired, brown coat of this species.

The 'Indian Prairie Fiends', in Mander's Menagerie, with their hippo's head and tiger's claws, etc., are much harder to explain. Maybe these were real Nandi Bears: If so, it is a great pity that they do not seem to have come to the attention of any naturalist of the time.

Keep on Crypto-ing,

Yours,

Mike Grayson.

MAWNAN HAS BROKEN.

Dear Sir,

May I suggest that the creature seen by 'Gavin' in the article in A&M6 was almost certainly an Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*). This bird is found in continental Europe but has been found in Britain occasionally. It is about 26 inches in length, so that the five feet given by the observer is wrong. It is difficult to be accurate at night with measurements. It is characteristic of owls in general to perch with two toes pointing forward and with the outer toe reversed.

Yours sincerely,

John Heath Stubbs.

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE.

I've heard of a blind cave salamander and a flying frog, but does evolution ever go wrong? Will they find a new kind of Namibian Amphibian, a blind cave frog perhaps, which uses sonar? Is there a bat in Acre? If so what will they call it? An acre-bat of course, and will they find the bod of Beastman Moor, wherever they may be?

John Love,
Scotland.

A Tribute to Eric Sorensen.

Caddy was swimming in the sea
In the early morning mist
He did his very best to make
His coils writhe and Twist
And this was off, as technically
He just did not exist.

The Sasquatch and his hairy wife
were walking in the distance
Discussing Zoomorphically
The meaning of Existence
"T'would be a shame, should we be real,
to go extinct by mischance".

"The time has come", the Sasquatch said,
"To talk of many things,
of Tatzelwurms and Giant Sloths,
Bunyips and Otter Kings,
and Zeuglodon and Nandi Bears,
and whether snakes have wings".

"Publicity, as Vu-Quang shows,
is what we chiefly need
I'll write to 'Animals & Men'
then people will take heed.
And we and others of our kind
may safely live and breed".

So, Mr Downes, I'm begging you,
continue to inspire
those students of Zoology
who knowledge would acquire.
I remain, Sir,
Your's respectfully,
A. Sasquatch, Esquire.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This wonderful
slice of relict
hominid verse
appeared
mysteriously on
my doorstep on
Christmas Eve
and although I
have my
suspicions I have
absolutely no
idea of the
identity of the
author

BOOK REVIEWS

'Latin Names Explained - a guide to the scientific classification of Reptiles, Birds and Mammals' by A.F.Gootch (Blandford £20.00 713pp hb).

By admitting the following statement I am quite possibly showing my self up do be a dull pedant who should, in the current idiom, 'Get a Life', but it has been years since I received such an enthralling book.

The title explains it all, What you see is what you get, and what you get is an exhaustive work covering the nomenclature of the Animal Kingdom in more depth than I have ever seen elsewhere. It also, and this is possibly its greatest strength, at least as far as pure entertainment value is concerned, explains the meanings of the latin names of thousands of individual species.

Some are prosaic, some self-explanatory, and some so poetically bizarre that they invoke a whole new sub-science of Fortean Zoology. My life has never been the same since discovering that *Caloprymnus campestris* (The Desert Rat Kangaroo) means, almost exactly "Creature with the beautiful rear end that lives in the desert", or that Ospreys were named after a legendary king of Athens.

'Fortean Studies Volume Two' Edited by Steve Moore. (John Brown Publications £19.99 320pp)

Steve Moore has once again done an excellent job, and here, presents another miscellany of Fortean goodies, which would otherwise be completely unavailable. All this for less than the price of that rather nasty 'new' Beatles CD. You can't complain can you?

There are thirteen articles, four of which have direct relevance to the readers of this magazine, but all of which are both fascinating and massively entertaining to anyone with an enquiring mind.

Bob Rickard has completed an exhaustive analysis of the collected Fish-Fall papers of American Ichthyologist E.W.Gudger (1866-1956) which not only presents the available data in a concise and usable manner but suggests several new avenues of investigation into one of the most fascinating Fortean Zoological mysteries. (My only sadness being that if his name had been E.W.Gudeon the 'forteanness' would have been even greater.

Karl Shuker has presented an excellent paper listing all the living and dead specimens of alien cat species found to date in the United Kingdom. Several of these are very ill-known and there was at least two specimens, a puma found in Barnstaple during the late 1970's and a leopard cub found in Manchester in 1975 which were completely unknown to me. Shuker's article also includes several unfamiliar photographs and is the most important piece to be written on the subject of ABC's in Britain for many years.

Michel Meurger has produced another hatchet job on conventional cryptozoological ethics and attitudes with his comprehensive analysis of Scandinavian lake monster stories. I never know quite what I feel about Michel Meurger's writings. There is no doubt that he is a fine academic and a incisive investigator, but there is also no doubt that he manages to raise the hackles of much of the cryptozoological

establishment, and although I do not consider myself to be a traditional cryptozoologist at all, I find him difficult to say the least.

Michel Raynal and Gary Mangiacopra have produced a stunning compendium of all that is known about 'out of place' Coelacanth sightings, which includes the recent speculation about fishes from the Gulf of Mexico, and also includes photographs of the scale specimens found in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Less relevant to the Fortean Zoologist but equally interesting are a fascinating article on UFOs and the media by 'Animals & Men' contributor Neil Nixon, a review of Nazi Archaeology by Ulrich Magin and a wonderful dissection of the 'Russians with snow on their boots' legends from the first world war, (which incidentally I heard from my grandmother when I was a small child). An essential book. Roll on Volume Three.

'On the Track of Unknown Animals' by Bernard Heuvelmans (Kegan Paul £25 677pp)

We reviewed this in the last issue of 'Animals & Men' but on consideration it appears that our review contained some inaccuracies which may have detracted from the overall impression we hoped to give. Firstly, and most importantly this is a reprint of the revised edition from the early sixties, which means that it contains considerably more information than does the better known first English Language edition of 1958. Secondly this new version contains a brand new thirteen page introduction by the author who describes the progress of the science of Cryptozoology over the forty years since he first wrote the book. He also lists new species that have been discovered over the last four decades and whets our collective appetite for the advent of Heuvelmans' complete Cryptozoological works which are being published in English for the first time over the next few years.

The addition of many new and unfamiliar pictures missing from the first UK edition (as I don't own the original second edition I don't know whether they are new with this volume or were first published in 1962), also make this an essential purchase. It is after all not only the book which first promulgated the science of cryptozoology, but it is the most important book ever written on the subject of Unknown Animals.

'Mysterious Australia' by Rex Gilroy (Nexus pb 288pp £10.99)

Rex Gilroy has done for Antipodean fortiana what Loren Coleman did for transatlantic fortiana with his classic 'Mysterious America'. Written in a similar style this book chronicles fortan events 'down under' in a witty but concise style. Like Coleman before him, much of the contents of this book is broadly cryptozoological. It covers the Blue Mountain 'panthers', the riddle of thylacine survival, river monsters, the yowie and much more. The chapter on the giant monitor lizards which have been reported from so much of the island continent is especially interesting, but it is hard to single out one single chapter when the whole book is of such an excellent standard.

Much of the material in this book is totally new to me, and I have no hesitation in recommending this book to you. Gilroy has researched most of these cryptids in person, and is a painstaking investigator. This is an essential purchase and should be on the book shelves of every fortan with even the most passing interest in the subject. I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

PERIODICAL REVIEWS

We welcome an exchange of periodicals with magazines of mutual interest although because we now exchange with so many magazines we have been forced, much against our fortune methodology, to categorise them.

CRYPTOZOOLOGY AND ZOOMYTHOLOGY

DRAGON CHRONICLE, The dragon trust, PO Box 3369, London SW6 6JN. A quarterly magazine about all things draconian. The new issue features a fascinating article about sky dragons and celestial serpents. Also Celtic Dragon Myths, British Dragon legends and more.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CRYPTOZOOLOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER, 3773 West 18th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. V6S 1B3. Excellent and well put together, and they are now on the Internet as well! Latest issue features Loch Ness, the monster of Lake Tanganika and much more

CRYPTOZOOLOGIA, Association Belge d'Etude et de Protection des Animaux Rares, Square des Latins 49/4, 1050 Bruxelles. Belgium. A French language magazine published by the Belgian society for Cryptozoology.

FRINGE SCIENCE

NEXUS 55 Queens Rd, E. Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1BG. Intelligent look at the fringes of science. Well put together. Very impressive. The latest issue features a peculiar article on sugar substitutes and their possible toxicity and much more..

FORTEAN

TEMS NEWS, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2QY. An entertaining collection of odds and sods and generally weird stuff. A magazine I always enjoy reading. Recommended.

DEAD OF NIGHT, 156 Bolton Road East, Newferry, Wirral, Merseyside, L62 4RY. An amusing and intelligently put together Fortean magazine. The latest issue includes a wonderful piece on Afro-Caribbean magic in contemporary Britain by Roy Kerridge. My favourite Fortean Magazine!

THIRD STONE PO BOX 258, Cheltenham, Glos, GL53 0HR. The magazine of the Gloucester Earth Mysteries group. A wonderful, witty and stylish look at earth mysteries in general and Gloucestershire ones in particular.

ANNALS 2, Gerry Lovell, 4G Preston Manor, Wick Hollow, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8JQ. UK. Wonderful and witty A4 Fortean magazine. #26 features the best resume of the Roswell autopsy video that I have yet read, plus a fascinating piece on the US Airforce's experiments with anti-gravity, plus much more.

FOAFTALE NEWS, MUN Folklore & Language Archive, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1B 3X8 Canada. Scholarly magazine about folklore, and the mechanics of how it becomes assimilated into societies. Highly recommended.

ZOOLOGY/NATURAL HISTORY

SOUTH WEST HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, Frank Gibbons, Acanthus, 59 St Marychurch Rd. Torquay, Devon. Entertaining and informative newsletter from a thriving organisation. Contains some quasi forteen oddments. The latest issue (#206) features an interesting piece on the reptiles of the Galapagos Islands.

BIPEDIA, Francois de Sarre, C.E.R.B.I, 6 Avenue George V, 06000 Nice, France. Issue twelve of this scholarly magazine is now available. Written partly in French, partly in English, it explores the obscure, but fascinating theory of Initial Bipedalism, and its allied disciplines.

PORTSMOUTH REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER M Jones, 7 Hazelmere Rd. Southsea, Hants. Another thriving regional organisation whose publications ooze with authoritativeness and professionalism.

MILTON KEYNES HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY 15 Esk Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. Excellent A5 magazine containing handy hints, informative articles and news of what appears to be an exciting organisation. The latest issue has a particularly interesting article about the biodiversity of monitor lizards. I recommend this magazine highly!

MAINLY ABOUT ANIMALS, 13 Pound Place, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8HH. Veteran Zoologist Clinton Keeling edits this wonderful A5 magazine which is, as the title says, mainly about animals. This is a genre of magazine that I and many others feared was lost forever and it comes with your editor's highest recommendation.

ESSEX REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS SOCIETY, 6 Chestnut Way, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex, CO5 ONX. Another excellent and lively regional reptile society. Contains much invaluable information, and the latest issue contains a quasi forteen snippet about a man biting the head off a rattlesnake.

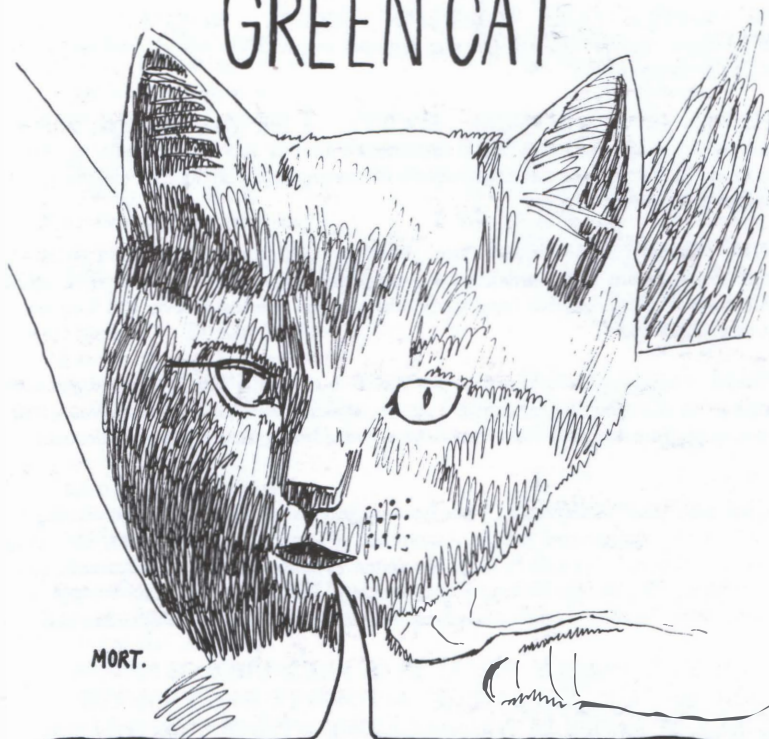
We also exchange with 'The Cereologist', The Creature Research Journal, Enigmas, Earthly Delights, The Wild Equid Society, Animal Keeper, Association of Private Animal Keepers, The Young Herpetologists Club, National Terrapin Project, Nessletter, Promises and Disappointments, Touchstone, Annals 2, The Reptilian, Kingsbridge Natural History Society, South West Tarantula Society, and 'Track Record but we have not received anything from them during the past three months!

**UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF PRESSURES OF SPACE.
AND BECAUSE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF PAGES IN THE MAGAZINE WITHOUT INCREASING
THE COST, 'NERVOUS TWITCH', 'HELP' AND 'NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL
CRYPTO' HAVE BEEN HELD OVER UNTIL THE NEXT ISSUE. THE NEXT ISSUE
WILL BE PUBLISHED IN APRIL AND WILL BE POSTED OUT
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE F.T UNCONVENTION 1996.
COME AND SEE US THERE!**

ISSN 1354-0637
TYPESET IN THE FARMYARD

Give me peace on earth, and a chicken suit, and a star to sail her by

THE WORLD FAMOUS GREEN CAT



MORT.

RECYCLE HOUSEHOLD WASTE, NO
NEW ROADS, NO NUCLEAR TESTING...

Cartoon by Mort